ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

FOR THE YEAR

1953

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CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Incorporated under Nigerian Ordinance No. 39 of 1946).

FOR THE YEAR

1953.

Head Office :

BOTA, VICTORIA.

CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM TRUSTEESHIP.

MEMBERS OF CORPORATION :

A. H. YOUNG, C.B.E., *Chairman.*

F. E. V. SMITH, C.M.G.

CHIEF J. MANGA WILLIAMS, O.B.E.

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY, NIGERIA GOVERNMENT (*ex-officio*).

W. J. C. RICHARDS.

E. K. MARTIN.

DR. THE HON. E. M. L. ENDELEY, M.H.R.

THE HON. MALLAM AHMADU, M.H.R., LAMDO MUBI.

Secretary:

H. R. CLEAVER, T.D., F.A.C.C.A.

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FOR THE YEAR 1953.

I. General.

1953 was again a year of expansion and development in the Corporation's activities, particularly in the development of the plantations and this has been reflected in the expenditure on planting and upkeep of immature areas which was almost twice that for the preceding year.

As in previous years, considerable damage was caused to the banana plantations by windstorms, and it is estimated that the losses of banana plants as a result numbered 1,876,800 plants. This, together with an increase in the incidence of " Panama " disease and " Cigar End " disease, resulted in the production of stems on the Corporation's Estates being only 178,700 higher than in the previous year. Whilst the shipment of green bananas showed only a slight increase in the number of stems as compared with 1952, the weight shipped was considerably greater. During the year production of dried bananas at Tombel ceased, and the production was thereafter evacuated to the coast and shipped as green bananas.

At the commencement of the year the Corporation's production of green bananas ceased to be marketed through the Ministry of Food and, in accordance with an Agreement, was handled by Messrs. Elders & Fyffes Ltd.

The production of palm produce increased during 1953, and both the amount and the quality of rubber produced during the year were raised.

Agricultural developments included the planting of 3,906 acres of bananas and preparations were made for a further 1,586 acres in 1954. 926 acres of oil palms were planted during the year and a programme of planting for 1954 of approximately 1,200 acres was in hand. As regards rubber, a total of 1,513 acres was replanted on old rubber and cocoa areas, with preparations being made for a 1954 planting programme of 1,266 acres.

The principal capital works programme was a continuation of the construction of labour housing, industrial buildings, and the major reconstruction project of the wharf at Tiko.

As forecast in the previous Report, expenditure on medical, social and welfare, and educational services continued to increase.

The following Members of the Corporation and employees of the Corporation were honoured by the award of the Coronation Medal :—

Members :

A. H. Young, Esq., C.B.E.
H. B. Cox, Esq.
Dr. The Hon. E. M. L. Endeley, M.H.R.
The Hon. Mallam Ahmadu, M.H.R., Lamdo Mubi.
E. K. Martin, Esq.
Chief J. Manga Williams, O.B.E.

Employees :

E. W. Box, Esq., O.B.E.
H. Elango, Esq.
G. E. Mott, Esq.
J. W. Tallentire, Esq.
C. W. M. Turner, Esq.
Dr. C. Wilson.

II. Membership.

The membership of the Corporation during 1953 remained as for the previous year, but Mr. F. E. V. Smith, C.M.G., indicated toward the end of the year that, in view of other commitments, he would be unable to accept re-election. The appointment of Chief J. Manga Williams, O.B.E., who was one of the original Members of the Corporation, lapsed on the 1st January, 1954.

At the close of 1953 the membership was :—

Mr. A. H. Young, C.B.E. (*Chairman*).
The Development Secretary, Nigeria Government (*ex officio*).

Cameroons Members :—

Chief J. Manga Williams, O.B.E.
Mr. E. K. Martin.
Dr. The Hon. E. M. L. Endeley, M.H.R.
The Hon. Mallam Ahmadu, M.H.R., Lamdo Mubi.

Overseas Members :—

Mr. F. E. V. Smith, C.M.G. (London).
Mr. W. J. C. Richards (London).

II. Meetings.

General Meetings of the Corporation were held as follows :—

20th April to 25th April, 1953.
16th June to 18th June, 1953.
17th November to 20th November, 1953.

The Sixth Annual General Meeting, when the Report and Accounts for the year 1952 were formally accepted, was held at the Head Office at Bota on the 25th April, 1953.

Less formal consultations between Members of the Corporation readily available were held from time to time.

IV. Corporation Lands.

Five Agreements relating to rentals and valuations concerning land leased to the Corporation, which had been the subject of negotiation with the Nigerian Government in the preceding year, were engrossed and executed. Owing to a delay in the registration of these Deeds it was not possible for the sixth Agreement, the Deed of Variation, relating to the adjustment of rents arising from land surrendered, to be engrossed and executed, but it is anticipated that this will be completed early in 1954.

V. Agricultural Activities.

The Corporation's agricultural policy continued as hitherto and was directed in the main to the development of bananas, rubber and oil palms. During the year expert advice was obtained with regard to the development of tea on the Corporation's estates, and the advisor's recommendations for the development of the small 70 acres tea garden at Tole into a fully developed and economic tea plantation of 700 acres with a tea factory are to be considered by the Corporation early in 1954.

It was decided to form a Research Section which will be concerned with soil and fertiliser investigations, plant diseases, and with the development, by means of a small breeding station, of disease resistant bananas. Arrangements were made for a plant breeder to be attached to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, and he left for the West Indies at the end of 1953 to undertake a short four months' course. A soil chemist was appointed during the year, and it is hoped to appoint a plant pathologist early in 1954.

During the year the Corporation was able to obtain the services of a Consultant on banana diseases who paid two visits to the Cameroons during the year, with a view to identifying the cause of " Cigar End " disease. He was successful during his second visit, when he proved by inoculation experiments, that the primary cause of " Cigar End " disease was Trachysphaera fructigena. With the arrival of a plant pathologist early in 1954 and the development of the banana breeding aspect of the Research Section, it is hoped ultimately to reduce the incidence of diseases in the Cameroons.

Summaries of crop acreages are given on page 27 of this Report.

(i) *Bananas.*—1953 marked, after a lapse of thirteen years, the recommencement of banana shipments from the Meme River areas and the Tombel plantation. From the Meme River area 336,000 stems were lightered to banana ships and Tombel delivered 172,000 stems. During the wet season the fruit from Tombel was evacuated over the new Tombel/Mungo Falls road, which was completed by the Corporation early in

1953, and then lightered to Tiko. During the dry season, however, it was not possible to continue this method of evacuation, and an arrangement was entered into with the French Cameroons Authorities whereby fruit was evacuated from Tombel via the French Cameroons Railway to Bonaberi and then lightered to Tiko by the Corporation's craft.

Storm damage and losses caused by disease contributed to the short fall in the production of bananas compared with the estimated production for the year. Windstorm losses amounted to 1,876,800 plants, whilst " Panama " disease and " Cigar End " disease accounted for the loss of 627,230 plants and 738,000 stems respectively.

The Corporation shipped 102,784 stems more than in 1952, but with the growing improvement in the quality of fruit exported, the weight shipped was 7,789 tons greater than in the previous year.

There has been a disturbing increase in the spread of " Panama " disease during the year when it was necessary to abandon 1,296 acres as a result. Acreages abandoned for 1951, 1952 and 1953 were 287, 572 and 1,296 respectively, and whilst development of the banana estates was such that, after taking into consideration acreages lost because of disease, there was still a net increase, the rate of spread of disease, if it continues, will outstrip the present rate of development. It is hoped that the new Research Section, when in full operation, will have a corrective influence on the spread of disease. It is expected that with the assistance of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture it may be possible to introduce to the Cameroons a banana more resistent to " Panama " disease.

A series of manurial experiments were commenced and while it is yet early to reach any firm conclusions, certain trends regarding deficiencies in the soil are becoming evident.

During the early part of 1953 the dehydrated banana market became saturated, and in April, the production of dry bananas ceased. At the same time, it became possible to evacuate green bananas from the Tombel plantation, where previously the production had been devoted to dried bananas, and it seems unlikely that the dehydrating plant will be reopened in the near future.

The Corporation renewed its Agreement with the Bakweri Co-operative Union of Farmers Ltd., whereby the Corporation undertook to purchase the Union's production of exportable bananas, and 33,623 stems were purchased in 1953 as against 5,000 during 1952. The membership of the Co-operative Union reached 150 by the end of the year, and there are indications that indigenous farmers in other areas wish to enter into similar agreements with the Corporation.

In previous years the exportable surplus of bananas in the Cameroons was sold to the Ministry of Food, but in 1953, when control ceased, the Corporation marketed its bananas through Messrs. Elders & Fyffes Ltd. under the terms of its Agreement.

(ii) *Oil Palms.* Improvements continued to take place both in the field and in the factories, and production continued to increase.

A decision was taken to re-open the M'bonge plantation and oil mill, but the effect on production will not be felt until 1954. The oil mills at Bota, Ekona and Idenau continued to operate satisfactorily but with the decision to increase the capacity of the mill at Bota, it was decided to close the Moliwe Mill and have the fruit processed at Bota. On economic grounds this is a very satisfactory arrangement.

At Bota the bulk oil storage plant was erected and was commissioned early in November. This installation was financed in the main by the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board, and will effect considerable saving in the handling and bulk shipment of oil. Difficulties had previously arisen due to the variation of temperature and consequent solidification of the oil when oil which was being shipped in bulk was decanted from drums.

The improvement in the quality of the oil produced continued, the free fatty acid percentage for 1953 being 3·57 as compared with 3·65 for 1952.

During 1953, 926 acres were planted at Idenau and Bota which brought the total area of immature palms to 2,344 acres by the end of the year.

The work on palms breeding continued satisfactorily, and the difficulties concerning pollination failures, reported in 1952 have been overcome. Germination in the nurseries was satisfactory, the losses being negligible. It is anticipated that the seedling supply for the 1954 programme will provide for 1,200 acres. Spraying in the nurseries has kept under control Cercospora " freckle " disease which was beginning to cause some anxiety during 1952.

(iii) *Rubber.*—By the end of 1953 over 1,000 acres of young rubber planted in 1945/46 had been brought into tapping and the yield indicated greater yields than from the older rubber. It is the Corporation's policy to replant some of the oldest and poorest yielding rubber, as well as to extend the acreage under rubber by new planting. During 1953, 1,513 acres of old rubber and cocoa land were replanted with rubber, which brought the total area under immature rubber to 5,011 acres. A full programme of fertilising has been carried out and the growth is excellent.

Production during the year amounted to 1,800 tons as compared with 1,559 tons in 1952. The improvement in field supervision as well as the improved yield from areas of young, good quality rubber coming to bearing, have contributed toward the increase in production. The quality of rubber produced has also improved, the percentage of No. 1 sheet in 1953 being 73, as compared with 62 in the preceding year. Proposals were under consideration for the modernisation of the Corporation's rubber factories and for the facilities for processing latex, and orders were placed for a new sheeting battery and a new crepeing battery.

The Visiting Agent carried out a tour of the estates during the year and reported favourably.

(iv) *Cocoa.*—Rehabilitation of the areas at Tombel under cocoa was carried out during the year, and a very sparse stand of some 250 acres was

abandoned. There remained in harvest and upkeep at the end of the year 1,065 acres. Experimental spraying against Blackpod disease was carried out on 125 acres, and results so far have proved it to be a great success. It is intended to improve the spraying facilities at Tombel.

(v) *Other Crops.*—At the end of 1953 there were 12 acres of mature and 4 acres of immature pepper at Meanja, whilst at Old Koke there were 17 acres of immature pepper. A further 10 acres is to be planted early in 1954. 5,709 lbs. of pepper were harvested during 1953, as compared with 5,824 lbs. during 1952.

As a result of the recommendations of an expert advisor on tea, who was invited to the Cameroons during 1953 to report on the Corporation's tea plantation and the possibilities of developing this crop, some 17 acres of the old Tole tea garden have been rehabilitated as a seed-bearer garden. It is expected that the Corporation will make a decision early in 1954 as to the possibility of developing tea.

(vi) *Buea Farms.*—At the beginning of 1953 the dairy herd was tuberculin tested and 12 cows were found to be " reactors." These were subsequently slaughtered, reducing the herd to 75 milking animals. As a result, the milk production of 26,482 gallons was lower than that for the previous year. The majority of the milk was converted to butter, the production amounting to 9,179 lbs. The average yield of milk per cow per day was 1·24 gallons giving a herd average of 384·4 gallons per cow for the 310 day lactation period. One cow gave 661 gallons in the same period. The decision was taken that all milk should be pasteurised, and the necessary equipment was ordered.

The incidence of contagious abortion has been slightly less than in the previous years, there having been six cases during 1953. Supplies of S.19 vaccine were becoming available and all young and adult female stock were being vaccinated. During September dehorning of all the female stock was commenced and this will be completed early in 1954.

At the end of the year there were thirty-five breeding sows and gilts and six boars on the farms. During the year a scheme for fattening pigs on some of the plantations was commenced, the pigs being sent to Ekona, Tombel, N'Sonne Moliwe and Mokundange. It was hoped that after giving the young pigs a good start on the Buea Farms, they would be able to thrive on the lower protein diet that would be available on the plantations. Results were beginning to show that pigs would take between nine and twelve months to fatten under this system, and as a result production of fat pigs for the year was disappointing.

Vegetable production was slighty less for 1953 than for the previous year ; 508 cwts. were produced in 1953, as compared with 536 cwts. for 1952.

(vii) *Timber.*—In order to exploit to the full the timber resources of the Corporation, a Timber Officer was appointed during the year and he carried out a preliminary survey. A complete enumeration of useful species was commenced at Ekona, Moliwe, Mukonje, Tiko and Tombel.

At Ekona there is a large stand of Obeche (Triplochiton scleroxylon) estimated to contain more than 1½ million cubic feet of timber. Adequate resources of hardwoods to meet the Corporation's requirements are available at Ekona and elsewhere and include Mahogany (Entandrophragma and Khaya spp.) African Walnut (Lovoa Klaineana) and Iroko (Clorophora excelsa).

Improvements in extraction methods were effected during 1953, and a new sawmill brought into production in July at Ekona. A joinery shop was also installed at Ekona, and additions and improvements made to the sawmill and the joinery workshops at Tiko.

VI. Production.

Comparative figures of production are as follows :—

		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Bananas—Total for British Cameroons:							
Production	stems	4,585,669	5,676,039	4,803,782	5,953,543	6,178,209	6,732,560
Shipments	,,	4,078,408	5,137,600	4,680,419	5,773,208	5,746,946	5,893,294
Cameroons Development Corporation Estates:							
Production	stems	2,541,579	3,226,723	2,760,188	3,868,756	3,880,487	4,059,181
Shipments	,,	2,268,818	2,927,539	2,666,775	3,609,906	3,743,801	3,846,585
Dried Bananas	lbs.	417,492	112,224	28,252	573,216	523,595	278,264
Palm Oil	tons	1,483	1,589	2,077	2,463	2,593	2,715
Palm Kernels	,,	842	666	1,157	1,265	1,576	1,712
Rubber	,,	1,335	925	1,324	1,606	1,559	1,800
Cocoa	lbs.	40,854	255,770	194,040	186,480	181,920	181,600
Tea	,,	1,738	—	—	—	—	—
Pepper	,,	2,977	4,943	2,260	3,360	5,824	5,709
Butter	,,	5,935	5,441	4,827	8,438	10,359	9,179
Milk	gals.	19,205	19,238	15,272	24,870	30,086	26,482

VII. Joint Activities with Messrs. Elders & Fyffes Ltd.

Previous arrangements with Messrs. Elders & Fyffes Ltd. for the conduct of the joint railway and hospital activities at Tiko continued.

VIII. Engineering.

The Development programme for 1953 made increasing demands on the specialist staff of the Division which necessitated an increase in the establishment. By the end of the year fourteen posts remained unfilled, but it was anticipated that the majority of these will be filled early in 1954. Messrs. Costain (West Africa) Limited, who had kindly agreed in the previous year to second three engineers to the Corporation, agreed that they should continue their service in 1953 and the secondments were finally terminated in May.

(i) *Housing*.—Twelve Senior Service houses and two chalets were completed at Bota and two additional houses under construction were scheduled to be completed in January, 1954. A Senior Service house constructed of Arcon material was completed at Ekona and commencement was made on the construction of two houses at Mokoko and Idenau. A house constructed of Arcon material and a chalet were completed at Mukonje. Messrs. Costain (West Africa) Limited, had accepted contracts for the construction of ten Senior Service houses at Tiko and Moliwe, and two had been completed by the end of the year. The Company had also commenced the construction of five houses at Ekona

designed to accommodate the staff of the new Research Section which is being formed by the Corporation. The Company's contract for permanent labour housing in the Bota and Tiko areas was completed, and resulted in a further 1,346 single-room and 154 double-room quarters being commissioned during the year. Labour housing of a semi-permanent type mainly of timber construction was completed departmentally at N'Sonne Moliwe, Mabeta, Molyko, Meanja, Mukonje, Ekona and Tombel, and resulted in a further 1,200 rooms being available.

(ii) *Social, Education and Welfare Buildings.*—The domestic science centre of the Bota School was completed as were several school buildings being erected by Missions on behalf of the Corporation. A new Workers' Shop was erected at Tiko and construction commenced on another Shop at N'Sonne Moliwe. Work was started on the swimming pool at Tiko Club, and it is anticipated that it will be completed early in 1954. A review was made of the community hall requirements on the Corporation's housing estates, and a phased programme for new construction will be considered by the Corporation early in 1954.

(iii) *Hospitals and Medical Buildings.*—Material for new hospitals to be constructed at Ekona, Idenau, M'bonge and Tombel was despatched to the areas and construction had commenced on the Tombel Hospital by the end of the year. The reconstruction of the Tiko Hospital was completed and minor alterations made to the Cottage Hospital. A small new ward was added to the Mukonje Hospital.

(iv) *Wharves.*—As stated in the previous Report, sheet piling, as the first steps towards the construction of the lighter berth, had been commenced in December, 1952. This allowed the construction of the wharf to commence early in 1953. However, as a result of difficulties with plant and under-water obstructions encountered when the screwing of the piles was commenced, construction fell behind schedule and in consequence it was decided that during 1953 the lighter wharf should be completed allowing the old wharf to be available for loading and discharging of fruit and cargo. By the end of 1953 the lighter wharf was complete and in use. It is anticipated that work on the main wharf will commence early in 1954 and be completed by September, at the commencement of the banana peak season. It has been necessary to employ a diver fulltime betwen shipments to allow clearance of obstructions from the site of the new main wharf.

(v) *Roads and Communications.*—The Tombel/Mungo Falls road was opened to traffic on the 7th May, 1953. It has been necessary, however, to incur some heavy maintenance charges after the wet season, and additional culverts and earthworks have been authorised to provide satisfactory drainage. The replacement of the suspension bridge at Idenau was complete by the end of the year with the exception of decking. Repairs to several small bridges were completed in the same area. Designs for the new bridge crossing at Bibundi were almost complete, and it is expected to commence construction on the abutments and piers early in 1954. Improvements to Bota and Tiko roads have been carried out and almost completed.

(vi) *Water Supplies.*—Bota and Tiko pumping stations were completed and commissioned, and filtered, sterilised water is now available

in both areas. Labour camps, as far as is possible, are being connected to this supply, but there has been some delay in the Bota area due to a heavy outcrop of rock encountered when laying the pipeline. Schemes for the provision of improved water supplies at Ekona and Bimbia were prepared. Elsewhere a number of wells were sunk, and small water supplies made available.

(vii) *Stores and Factories.*—A new store of Arcon material was constructed at Bota adjacent to the wharf area and will become the main Bota store. A store, also of Arcon material, was erected on the Tombel wharf as a transit shed. New equipment was installed in the Bota Oil Mill and three bulk oil storage tanks erected. Work on the rehabilitation of the M'bonge Oil Mill was commenced in August.

(viii) *Workshops.*—New locomotive workshops, joinery workshops, plant yard and area engineer's offices were under construction at Middle Farm, Bota, and when completed the present old workshops will be demolished, thus releasing additional space which will be required for the expansion of the Bota Oil Mill in due course. Frame saws were installed and operating at Tiko and Ekona by the end of the year, and it is anticipated that a multiple frame saw being installed at Tiko will commence operations in January, 1954. A multiple frame saw was also in the course of erection at Ekona. Small workshops have been installed at Tombel, Mukonje, Ekona and M'bonge Oil Mill.

(ix) *Motor Transport.*—The Corporation's fleet of motor vehicles increased and there were 281 vehicles, including tractors, operating by the end of the year. Permanent motor transport workshop buildings were in the course of erection at Bota and Tiko, and the necessary equipment was available for installation. Expansion of the main workshop wing at Moliwe was under construction, and during 1954 it is anticipated that routine vehicle maintenance will be carried out in the outstation workshops, leaving Moliwe free to concentrate on the complete overhaul of vehicles and the reconditioning of major assemblies. Motor Transport Staff has been increased to meet with expansion of the Corporation's fleet of transport, and the supply of spare parts has reached a satisfactory level.

(x) *Electrical Engineering.*—A commencement was made on the replacement of the internal distribution lines at Bota and Tiko, the Bota system being almost completed by the end of the year. The material for Tiko area commenced to arrive and the preliminary work has been commenced. The Corporation's property at Buea and Middle Farm, Bota, has been wired for electricity, and connected to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria supply system. A 3·3 KV cable has been laid to Tiko wharf and the old H.T. cable from Malele to M'pundu has been replaced. A radio telephone network of eight stations has been set up during the year to facilitate communications with outlying estates. A radio link has been established with the Department of Marketing and Exports' Radio Station at Calabar and through that Station to Lagos.

IX. Marine and Shipping.

A Summary of Trade at Bota and Tiko ports is given at the end of this section. These ports were operated by the Corporation's Shipping

Division which controls wharfage, lighterage and handling and also coastwise cargo to the limits of the plantations.

During the year delivery was taken of four sea-going lighters, a 60 ft. swim ended steel dumb barge, two high powered semi-tunnel shallow draught river towing launches and eight shallow draught river lighters. Two shallow draught river towing launches and four shallow draught river lighters are expected to be delivered early in 1954. The Corporation's fleet at the end of 1953 consisted of :—

15 sea-going dumb lighters.
8 sea-going power lighters.
6 sea-going tugs and towing launches.
14 river towing launches and small launches.
24 river dumb lighters.
5 life-saving craft.

Improvements and additions to Bota wharf were completed during the year. As a result of the delay in the progress of the construction of the main wharf at Tiko it became necessary to close the wharf to shipping for four months during the year, and it will be necessary for the wharf to be closed during 1954 for five or six months to permit the reconstruction to continue. Whilst the Tiko wharf was closed, shipping was handled in the pool.

It had been the intention to load all bananas from the Meme River area by lighter to the ocean-going vessels at Rio del Rey, but as the survey of the estuary was not completed nor the necessary buoying arranged, all shipments were lightered to Tiko or Bota. It is hoped that shipments from Rio del Rey will commence in the latter part of 1954.

SUMMARY OF TRADE AT BOTA AND TIKO PORTS
1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

Port	Inward Cargo	Outward Cargo (excluding bananas)	Creek Sailings	Bananas Exported	Passengers		Vehicles	Bags of Mail
					Saloon	Deck		
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Stems				
Bota	22,237	9,251	4,477	5,893,294	384	4,891	123	6,930
Tiko	13,291	2,096	5,526		584	420	122	933
Total 1953	35,528	11,347	10,003	5,893,294	968	5,311	245	7,863
Total 1952	41,995	11,617	13,565	5,747,040	1,017	6,885	310	6,555
Total 1951	32,423	8,213	12,535	5,773,208	704	7,761	187	6,134
Total 1950	28,459	8,508	13,502	4,680,419	530	6,556	195	4,929
Total 1949	21,193	7,774	6,825	5,137,600	877	3,896	187	3,560
Total 1948	13,273	5,262	9,598	4,078,408	599	6,828	143	3,178

X. Staff and Labour.

(i) *Establishment.*—At the end of 1953 the staff and the labour force was as follows :—

Senior Service	198
Intermediate Service	26
Junior Service (including employees on Monthly Agreements)	1,131
General Labour Force	23,813

In order to maintain an establishment sufficient to satisfy the demand as a result of increased developments and expansion in the various ancillary services, it was necessary to recruit additional Senior Service Staff. Two promotions to the Senior Service were made from the Intermediate Service during the year, one employee being appointed as a Field Assistant and a second as an Administrative Assistant. It is the Corporation's policy to promote the maximum number of employees to responsible positions when they are able to show by qualifications and experience that they can accept the additional responsibility. Two non-expatriate Medical Officers have been appointed to the Staff of the Corporation, and it is anticipated that a third will join the service of the Corporation early in 1954. Employees promoted to the Intermediate Service during 1952 were considered after their first year's probation and their appointments were confirmed. The number of Staff in the Intermediate Service increased by three and the Selection Committee will be interviewing further candidates early in 1954. 146 promotions to the Junior Service or to positions subject to Monthly Agreements were made during the year.

(ii) *Wages and Conditions of Service.*—No major alterations have been made in the rates of pay during the year following the agreement between the Workers' Union and the Corporation which was reached during 1952 and resulted in an upward revision of wages and salaries. The Corporation has continued to subsidise certain foodstuffs and basic commodities which were sold direct to employees through the Corporation's plantations. The appointment of a Commercial Superintendent in the early part of the year has resulted in an improved supply of foodstuffs brought into the Corporation's estates. This has assisted in satisfying the needs of the employees and has contributed to the stabilising of market prices in the surrounding markets.

(iii) *Cameroons Development Corporation Workers' Union.*—The relationship between the Workers' Union and the Management continued to be an amicable one and consultations have taken place at regular intervals. A consultative Committee, consisting of the heads of five Divisions, has met the Union at regular quarterly intervals and has proved a useful medium for the exchange of views and ensured a large measure of goodwill and understanding by both management and labour on the various problems that arise. Individual complaints and special cases, numbering 101, were dealt with each month by direct negotiation between representatives of the Union and the Personnel Department.

Some of the subjects dealt with by the Consultative Committee during the year were :—

(*a*) The check-off system of collecting trade union funds.
(*b*) Wage payments and overtime.
(*c*) Incentive Schemes.
(*d*) Redundancy.
(*e*) Training Schemes.
(*f*) Adult education.
(*g*) Housing accommodation.
(*h*) Consultation at area level.

In an endeavour to de-centralise the joint consultation machinery three Area Consultative Committees were formed in August, 1953, under the Chairmanship of the respective Administrative Managers. Local representatives of the Trade Union met the heads of sections in the areas and discussed matters relating to their areas. So far, this experiment has proved successful and local matters are being settled more speedily.

(iv) *Senior Service Staff Committee.*—The Senior Service Staff Committee met on a number of occasions during the year, and made recommendations and suggestions with regard to Conditions of Service at a meeting held with a Sub-Committee of the Corporation.

(v) *Housing.*—Progress continued to be made in the provision of new and improved housing for all grades of the Corporation's Staff, details of which are set out under the section of the Report dealing with Engineering.

(vi) *Workers' Shops.*—The demand for Workers' Shops continues with the expansion of the Corporation's activities, and during the year a new Shop was opened at Boa, bringing the total operating at the close of the year to seventeen. A new Shop was constructed at Moliwe and will be operating early in 1954. This was a new design and appears to be very satisfactory. A new Shop of similar design has been authorised for N'Sonne Moliwe and proposals will be considered early in 1954 for the construction of new Shops at Meanja and Mambanda.

Sales for the year were satisfactory, the turnover showing an increase of £23,000 on that for 1952. The general standard of Shopkeepers and their staff continued to improve. The Shops are well patronised by the employees of the Corporation who appreciate the service provided, and this is particularly true in regard to those Shops in the outlying stations where prices remain the same as at the Shops in the more central areas.

(vii) *Provident Fund.*—All members of the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Services, as well as many of the monthly paid employees for whom membership is voluntary, were members of the Corporation's Provident Fund. All members of the Fund contribute a minimum of 10 per cent. of their salaries, but they may elect to increase this to a maximum of 15 per cent. The Corporation contributes to the Fund 15 per cent. of the salaries of each of the members. At the close of 1953 there were 951 members of the Fund, the market value of the Fund's investments being £178,212 1s. 10d.

(viii) *Retiring Gratuities.*—Employees who are not members of the Provident Fund but who have served the Corporation for a minimum of five years continuous service are considered for the award of a retiring gratuity when the employee retires as a result of old age or infirmity. These gratuities are calculated in accordance with the rules approved by the Governor. During the year 502 gratuities amounting to £10,572 15s. 5d. were approved. This is an increase of 316 cases and £7,037 0s. 9d. on the awards approved in the previous year.

In addition to the gratuities for service with the Corporation, *ex gratia* payments are available to employees in respect of their service on the plantations prior to the formation of the Corporation. Payments to 439 employees, amounting to £3,525 2s. 11d. were authorised during the year. This is an increase of 266 cases and £1,975 19s. 6d. as compared with 1952.

XI. Welfare and Social Services.

During 1953 the Corporation had the full-time services of a Welfare Officer, a Woman Welfare Officer and a Films Officer and this was reflected in the success of the welfare and socal activities.

(i) *Recreation.*—Enthusiasm amongst the employees in connection with organised sports such as football, athletics and boxing continues to increase and the need for more specialised training is of growing importance. It is hoped to concentrate on this during 1954. The athletic championships produced far better performances than in the previous year, and it is anticipated that with the formation of an Amateur Athletic Association to provide added competition from outside clubs, the general standard will show further improvement during 1954.

Boxing tournaments in all areas have proved extremely popular and it is hoped to take a few of the most promising contestants to compete against a team at Yaounde in 1954.

The Plantations Football XI reached the second round of the Governor's Cup and lost to Calabar. The XI also visited Fernando Po on two occasions and gave a good account of themselves in the Gulf of Guinea Cup Competition losing to Fernando Po in the semi-finals by only one goal.

Considerable improvements have been made to the Bota Sports Field and a 440 yard running track to A.A.A. standards has been laid down with a first class football field in the centre. Similar improvements will be carried out at Tiko during 1954.

At the end of 1953 a creditable performance of a modified version of " The Pirates of Penzance " was staged by members of the Bota Community and was widely acclaimed by audiences at Bota and Tiko.

(ii) *Film Unit.*—During the year cinema shows at the more remote stations were provided, even where the numbers of employees were comparatively small. The total number of shows given during 1953 numbered 647 with an estimated total audience of 292,000, the film unit

working to capacity. During the latter part of the year it was unfortunately impossible to provide the services of a film unit at Tombel owing to the road from Etam Ferry becoming impassable.

Assistance was given to the Government sponsored Health Weeks at Victoria and Bota by providing a unit to show Health Propaganda Films.

Monochrome copies of newsreels covering the Coronation scenes and ceremony were shown, and as soon as it was available, a full length colour film. These films were shown as quickly and as widely as possible to all levels of Corporation employees and proved to be extremely popular.

The technical training of the staff has continued and a Senior Service technician was recruited towards the end of 1953 to assist in this work. Provision of amplified music for " high life " dances was continued and is in great demand, particularly in remote stations where the monthly cinema show followed by a dance has become an important occasion. The photographic developing and printing service which was commenced at the end of 1952 was an unqualified success and it has become necessary to increase the processing facilities to meet the demand.

(iv) *Women's Welfare.*—The sewing and literacy classes have continued during 1953 and the general standard of the work has improved. Greater stress has been laid on hand sewing to help those women, unable to obtain the use of a sewing machine, to make a complete garment by hand. The instructresses, who are required to have completed a full senior primary school education, were given a course of further instruction which was successfully reflected in an improved standard of work in the classes. This course included instructions in knitting and when this is more fully mastered by the instructresses it is hoped to include this subject in the class.

Women were also enrolled in literacy classes and it was found that these classes were especially successful with younger women and wives of literate workers.

(v) *Markets.*—A Commercial Superintendent was appointed in July, 1953, and based at Kumba with the object of obtaining regular supplies of foodstuffs at reasonable prices to be made available in all areas. He has had particular success, resulting in a general improvement in the diet and health of the community. Transport has been made available to him and it is proposed to continue and extend his activities.

(vi) *News Sheet.*—The News Sheet containing educational, recreational, sporting and general information, published and distributed fortnightly, has continued to provide all employees with a means of keeping in touch with activities in all areas and the circulation list has doubled in a year.

" Planter's Punch," the staff news sheet, has passed its first birthday and continues to be published monthly.

(vii) *Coronation Celebrations.*—Tremendous enthusiasm for the arrangements made for the celebration of the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II was displayed in all areas. Large crowds gathered from an early hour to attend services and witness the march past of school children and employees of Government Departments. During the day Sports Meetings were held, the winning competitors receiving Coronation souvenirs. Football matches and boxing competitions were arranged at various centres. Celebrations continued well into the night; tribal dances and firework displays adding to the general festivities.

(viii) *Welfare Expenditure.*—The Corporation's recurrent expenditure on welfare and social services during 1953 was £64,166. In addition, capital expenditure on schools, a community hall, an Intermediate Service Club, etc., exceeded £27,000, including work in progress.

XII. Education.

(i) *General.*—The Corporation offers free primary education to the children of its employees. Where Missions, Government or Native Administration Schools are within reasonable reach of the camps, the Corporation pays the school fees of children eligible for free education who attend these schools. In other camps, the Corporation is building and managing primary schools of its own and has also provided funds for Missions to build four schools and manage them at Corporation expense.

The Corporation has no secondary schools but it bears the expenses of those children who are worthy of a secondary education and who have managed to secure places in certain secondary schools. The Corporation's contribution to higher education in general is in the form of scholarships available to Cameroonians.

These scholarships are awarded by a Committee whose Chairman is the Commissioner of the Cameroons. Special scholarships are also available to employees who have had at least two years service with the Corporation and are intended to improve the technical ability of the employees concerned. The further educational needs of employees are provided for by means of adult literacy classes for selected workers, continuation classes for those who have already achieved literacy and classes for those who have completed full senior primary education. The Corporation is also interested in fostering an extension to the Cameroons of the extra mural activities supervised by the University College of Ibadan.

Libraries are established in various centres throughout the Corporation's plantations. Wives are permitted to join the adult literacy and continuation classes which are held in the evenings, but generally it has been found that women prefer the classes held during the day which are associated with other forms of welfare work.

(ii) *Staff.*—The Corporation's education activities are supervised by a Senior Service Education Officer, whilst those activities best supervised by a woman such as the provision of free meals for children in the Corporation schools, welfare activities amongst the women, etc., are in the

hands of the Woman Welfare Officer. The adult literacy classes are supervised by organisers available in a number of centres throughout the plantations.

(iii) *Primary Education.*—1953 commenced with the Corporation having four schools operating at Bota, Idenau, Mabeta and Matute. During the year a permanent school at Tiko was opened. Work commenced on four schools to be built and managed by Church Missions at the Corporation's expense, and by December, 1953, Junior Primary Schools at Laduma and Moliwe were completed, and two-classroom blocks with teachers' quarters were available at Mokundange and M'pundu. It is anticipated that three further schools will be opened during 1954. The Corporation's schools are designed to provide a junior primary course, but it is anticipated that a decision will be made during 1954 as to whether the existing schools should be developed to embrace a full primary course.

More than 500 children were enrolled at the end of the year in schools managed by the Corporation as compared with 250 in the preceding year. It is anticipated that the enrolment figures are likely to be 800 pupils in 1954.

During the year free meals for the school children were inaugurated at Bota, Idenau, Matute and Mabeta, and it is anticipated that these facilities will be extended throughout the remaining four schools in 1954.

Expansion of the present primary School System depends in part upon the supply of teachers. At the end of 1953 four men and one woman, sponsored by the Corporation, completed their teacher's training and were available for posting. It is anticipated that five men and one woman will complete their training during 1954. In addition, four trained women teachers were available for posting to the Corporation's schools during 1953.

Approximately 2,000 children eligible for free education had their fees paid in non-Corporation schools during 1953, raising the total of children receiving primary education at the expense of the Corporation to 2,700.

(iv) *Scholarships.*—The Corporation provides a grant of £5,000 annually for the grant of scholarships awarded to Cameroonians and during 1953 four scholarships were awarded, making a total of twenty-eight awarded since the commencement of the scheme. Where suitable training facilities exist in West Africa, the students are sent to these local institutions in preference to institutions in the United Kingdom.

Scholarships awarded are now confined, where possible to students of medicine, nursing, accountancy, engineering, commerce and, in particular, agriculture, all of which subjects are of considerable value in the development of the Cameroons. Some difficulty has been met in obtaining suitable applicants for the award of scholarships in agriculture.

FURTHER ILLUSTRATIONS OF ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS ON THE CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S ESTATES.

MUKONJE RUBBER PLANTATION, 1949/50 PLANTING

TIMBER EXTRACTION

MASSUE LABOUR CAMP

PLANTATION SCHOOL

BUEA FARM—CATTLE YARD

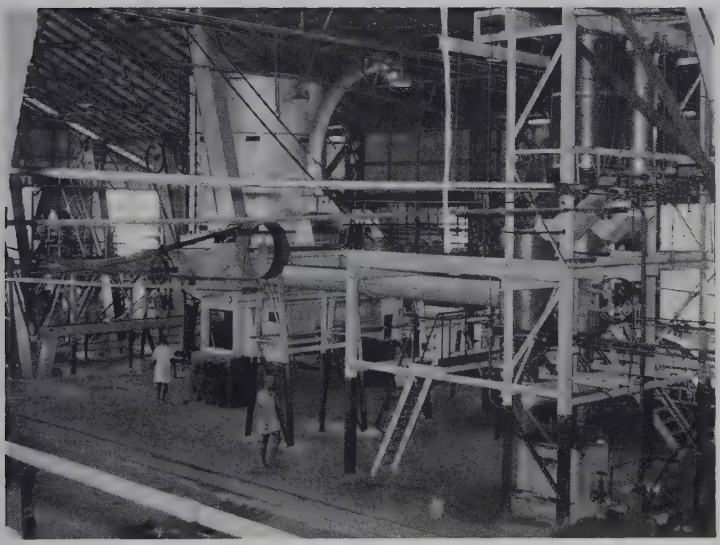
BUEA FARM—MILKING BAIL

MOLIWE WORKERS' SHOP

PART OF FLEET OF STEAM AND DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES

TIKO WHARF – CONSTRUCTION OF LIGHTER BERTHS

TIKO WHARF—CONSTRUCTION OF LIGHTER BERTHS



BOTA OIL MILL—GENERAL VIEW

BOTA OIL MILL—MEASURING TANKS AND CENTRIFUGES

Scholarships granted so far cover the following subjects :—

Science (6)	Economics (2)
Education (5)	Agriculture (1)
Arts (3)	Local Government (1)
Commerce (3)	Domestic Science (2)
Medicine (2)	Dentistry (1)
Nursing (2)	

During the year, twenty-three children of employees of the Corporation were receiving secondary education at Corporation expense and eleven new scholarships to secondary schools were awarded before the end of the year. A total of thirty-eight children has so far been awarded secondary school education and fifteen children of employees were having fees paid for technical education at secondary level at the Government Trade Centre at Ombe, Victoria.

Seven men who have been employed by the Corporation for not less than two years and were thereby eligible for a scholarship for higher education or for further training of a more technical nature were granted scholarships for further training.

To date, further training has been offered to seventeen employees as follows :—

Government Trade Centre, Ombe (5).
Pharmacy (7)
Sanitary (2)
Accountancy (1)
Agricultural Chemistry (1)
Science (1)

(v) *Adult Education.*—Evening literacy classes were held three times per week in three grades, those reaching the top grade being allowed to take an examination prior to the award of literacy certificates. During the course of the year there were approximately 1,400 employees regularly attending 188 classes at 88 centres supervised by seven full-time education workers, all of whom were trained teachers and in one case, part-time by a headmaster in an isolated station.

A few classes have been extended to a higher level for those employees who have successfully passed through the literacy classes or who have completed the Junior Primary School course. These continuation classes have been held in most of the principal centres. Adult classes at a still further higher level confined to English and Arithmetic have been introduced for the benefit of employees who have completed the Junior Primary School course and preference is given with a view to improving the general education of workers prior to admitting them to a more advanced technical course in office routine, typing and book-keeping. A short course in typing was commenced at Bota and resulted in a marked improvement in the performances of those attending.

Classes in English and Arithmetic were commenced at Bota, Tiko and Mukonje. It is hoped to commence technical courses during 1954 and Senior Service Staff have already volunteered to teach.

(vi) *Area Education Committees.*—Constructive suggestions for improving the local arrangements of the educational service continue to be received from the Area Education Committees and fulfill a useful purpose.

(vii) *Library Facilities.*—Eighteen library boxes each containing approximately seventy books to suit employees at varying educational levels are circulated on the Corporation's estates and reading rooms are provided in the main centres.

XIII. Medical and Health Services.

The year 1953 was one of consolidation in the Medical Division and there were few alterations or additions to the existing institutions. However, a female ward of ten beds was added to the Mukonje General Hospital, and a new Isolation Block and Laundry were added to the Tiko General Hospital. The original Isolation Block at Tiko has now been reconstructed and was used as a nurses preliminary training school.

Concentration was again on the training of staff and with five nurses qualifying in June there were ten Corporation nurses who had been registered as a result of passing the Nursing Council for Nigeria's examinations. There were also eight nurses who had been registered by virtue of long and meritorious service. Two recently qualified pharmacists joined the service of the Corporation, but one of them left soon after he had taken up his duties. The Corporation is indebted to the Government for the secondment of a pharmacist, so that the position was that both Bota and Tiko General Hospitals had a pharmacist available. The next candidate qualifying as a pharmacist is intended to be posted to Ekona Hospital.

The results of the first course at the Corporation's preliminary training school for nurses permitted an entry of twenty-five to a nurses-in-training course. They were showing promise by the end of the year.

The Senior Service Staff of the Medical Division was increased by the recruitment of three Medical Officers who took up their appointments during the year. Three Nursing Sisters resigned and were replaced by three newly recruited Sisters. With the increase in the Medical Officers available in the Corporation's Medical Division, it was possible to post a second Medical Officer to Tiko Hospital which is responsible for approximately 10,000 employees of the Corporation.

In the Junior Service a laboratory technician has been awarded a scholarship in the United Kingdom, and he has been replaced by a former official of the Government Laboratory Service.

During the year the Corporation's Medical Officer at Ekona took over the administration of the Corporation's Mukonje area and relieved the Kumba Government Medical Officer from any further responsibility in that area. The Corporation records its indebtedness to the Government Medical Service for allowing the Kumba Medical Officer to assist

the Corporation at Mukonje. The clinical care of employees at M'bonge remained, however, in the hands of the United Africa Company Limited doctor at Lobe, and the Corporation also wishes to record its appreciation of the assistance it has been given.

The Corporation's Estates, for medical purposes, are divided into four areas—Bota, Tiko, Ekona and Mukonje—and the total of the staff and their families at risk is approximately 50,000. The Corporation's Hospitals and ancillary institutions available are as follows :—

Bota Area : Bota General Hospital with 90 beds.
Idenau Auxiliary Hospital with 8 beds.
9 Aid Posts.

Ekona Area : Ekona General Hospital with 60 beds.
6 Aid Posts.

Mukonje Area : Mukonje General Hospital with 35 beds.
Tombel Auxiliary Hospital with 12 beds.
M'bonge Auxiliary Hospital with 10 beds.
10 Aid Posts.

Tiko Area : Tiko General Hospital with 204 beds.
Cottage Hospital with 12 beds.
Missellele Auxiliary Hospital with 35 beds.
Bwenga Estate Hospital with 8 beds.
15 Aid Posts.

SUMMARY OF TREATMENTS.

	Out-patients		In-patients	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Bota General Hospital	26,721	7,621	1,633	811
Ekona General Hospital ..	2,750	1,505	1,245	454
Mukonje General Hospital ..	14,437	3,962	715	234
Tiko General Hospital	12,632	2,045	2,478	818
Cottage Hospital	802	360	73	40
Idenau Auxiliary Hospital ..	14,435	440	170	25
M'bonge Auxiliary Hospital ..	5,356	1,636	1,355	13
Missellele Auxiliary Hospital ..	11,892	2,973	522	32
Tombel Auxiliary Hospital ..	12,555	1,246	1,800	14

The numbers treated at Aid Posts were as follows :—

Bota Area : 27,114 with 105,786 attendances.

Ekona Area : 9,690 with 26,516 attendances.

Mukonje Area (including Tombel and M'bonge) : 16,259 with 70,935 attendances.

Tiko Area : Cameroons Development Corporation—14,652 with 210,525 attendances.

Elders & Fyffes Ltd.—23,296 with 70,201 attendances.

The use of Aid Posts has relieved the Hospitals of a very large number of minor cases and has allowed the medical service to concentrate in the Hospitals on the more serious cases, and this is emphasised by the fact that Bota Wharf Aid Post dealt with 5,035 cases which would otherwise have had to be dealt with by the Bota General Hospital.

During the year 75 major, 362 intermediate and 1,394 minor operations were carried out by the Medical Division, the majority of which were performed in the Tiko General Hospital. Except for accidents, the majority of the more serious operations were for herniae. The Corporation's present policy is that no applicant for employment is accepted if there is a hernia present, but for years previously employees had been accepted without examination. 14,672 applicants for employment were medically examined during 1953.

Statistics show that of the accidents that occur two types are prominent. These are accidents on the railways and falls from trees ; at one period there were seven cases of broken backs in the accident ward at Tiko at the same time. Accidents involving breakages of bones are time consuming in treatment and involve long periods of more or less inactivity in bed, and it is becoming apparent that consideration will need to be given to the appointment of a physiotherapist, so as to lessen the period of immobilisation of such cases and decrease the rehabilitation period. The diseases which were chiefly encountered were mainly gastro intestinal. As expected, there were many cases of fever, of which a considerable number were of an unexplainable etiology but frank malaria was not common, and the incidence is less than areas outside the Corporation's Estates. This, undoubtedly, was due to the reduction of vectors of malaria effected by the mass spraying of all camps and the larger villages and towns adjacent to the Corporation's main areas. Helminthic diseases abound, but it is hoped that improvement in sanitation will reduce the incidence.

General preventive health measures were carried out in all camps under the supervision of camp headmen, whilst all camps were inspected by sanitary overseers. Wherever possible, bucket latrines were being replaced by water borne sanitation. Improvements in the supplies of potable water were made during the year, and Bota and Tiko now possess an excellent supply, whilst that in Ekona is also of good quality. Improvements elsewhere will be carried out in 1954.

All camps and the villages of Missellele, Tiko and Likomba, were sprayed with residual insecticides at regular intervals, and there was no doubt that the incidence of malaria was greatly reduced by this measure which also assisted in mitigating the nuisance caused by other insects.

There were no cases of smallpox during the year, and the Corporation's Sanitary Overseers, who are Public Vaccinators, effected 20,000 vaccinations against smallpox during 1953.

The Corporation's laboratory service continued to function well within its limitations, and the scope of its work was gradually being increased with the receipt of further equipment. It is hoped that it will be able to carry out blood tests for the salmonella group of bacteria.

The tailoring establishment attached to the Tiko General Hospital was able to produce a large quantity of hospital linen and nurses uniforms. It is supervised by the Senior Sister and supplies all the Corporation's Hospitals. Sewing machines are available in the Hospitals and running repairs were carried out locally.

An investigation into feeding habits was begun during the year.

Plans for the future, except for minor improvements and replacements, will depend on the scale and scope of the Corporation's development. In conjunction with the Government Senior Medical Officer, Victoria, however, an attack on Simulium damnosum, the vector of Onchocerciasis, is planned, and it is considered that it may be possible to eradicate this pest from defined areas for several years, as a preliminary test at N'Sonne Moliwe was highly successful.

Recurrent expenditure for medical services was £98,135, and contributions of £15,700 were received from other estates using the services of the Corporation's Medical Division. Capital Expenditure during 1953 was £31,935 which includes work in progress.

XIV. Finance.

The continued progress in the development of the Corporation's activities and the resulting increase in the Corporation's responsibilities for welfare and other services required by the terms of the Ordinance under which the Corporation was established has necessitated the Corporation seeking an increase in its borrowing powers as was forecast in the previous Report. During the year an amending Ordinance raised the Corporation's borrowing powers from £1,000,000 to £2,500,000.

By the end of the year the Corporation's borrowing powers had been exercised to the extent of one loan of £500,000 repayable by 1970, a second loan of £200,000 repayable by mid-1954, both obtained from the Nigerian Government, and a third loan of £400,000 from Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Limited, repayable by 1961. In addition, overdraft facilities up to £300,000 were available from the Corporation's bankers.

XV. Accounts for the year 1953.

A general principle relating to the writing off of capital expenditure out of revenue had been established in 1949 after consultation with the Governor of Nigeria and the Colonial Office, since in the absence of any real capital it was desirable to dispose of the cost of capital expenditure in the early life of the Corporation. At that time it was decided that all new assets created by the Corporation and attached to leasehold lands, which assets could not be pledged, should be written off in full as far as possible out of revenue in the year in which they were completed and that machinery, factory equipment and similar assets should be written off in five equal instalments over five years.

In 1952, however, a decision was taken that as the rate of capital expenditure had increased considerably and was likely to be sustained for two or three years, it was necessary to revise the procedure whilst retaining the general principles. In accordance with that decision, buildings and construction were written down by 33⅓ per cent. instead of writing them off completely in the year of completion ; other methods of writing off remaining as hitherto. Since the capital expenditure on building and construction during 1953 exceeded by more than 50 per cent. the expenditure on similar assets in 1952, it was decided to retain for 1953 the same methods of writing down assets as in the previous year.

As a result of the rapid growth in the Corporation's activities, certain weaknesses in the accounting system became evident. A report from the Auditors has also been received emphasising these weaknesses and suitable action is being taken.

The final results as shown in the accounts are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Working profit	1,234,311	6	9
Less : depreciation	888,396	1	3
	345,915	5	6
Transferred to Reserve under Section 19 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1946	90,000	0	0
	255,915	5	6
Transferred to Reserve for Retiring Gratuities ..	9,219	9	9
	246,695	15	9
Provision for 1954/55 Income Tax Assessment ..	190,000	0	0
	56,695	15	9
Add : Excess provision for 1953/54 Income Tax Assessment	3,589	5	0
Final surplus	£60,285	0	9

The final surplus will be remitted to the Governor for expenditure by him for the benefit of the peoples of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship in accordance with Section 19 of the Cameroons Development Corporation Ordinance of 1946.

The Members of the Corporation record their appreciation of the service rendered by the staff at all levels and by the labour force which has been essential to the progress made during the year. The Corporation

also desires to record its appreciation of the assistance and advice provided by many Government Departments and Government Officers.

(Signed) A. H. YOUNG, *Chairman.*

W. L. BLOOMFIELD, *Member.*

E. M. L. ENDELEY, *Member.*

J. FINDLAY, *Member.*

E. K. MARTIN, *Member.*

W. J. C. RICHARDS, *Member.*

H. R. CLEAVER, *Secretary.*

24*th April*, 1954.

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Analysis of Employees by Tribes, as at 31st December, 1953.

Tribe or Locality.	*No. Employed.*
Bakweri	1,379
Mungo	14
Bafaw	38
Bakossi	498
Bakundu	92
Basossi	97
Bakoki	4
Balong	49
Banyangi	1,410
Nguti	104
Keaka	533
Mbo	322
Nfotum	70
Bangaw	152
Bafum	729
Bafukum	168
Bali	681
Bamenda	730
Bamessi	150
Bameta	1,351
Bamengi	574
Baku Kong	12
Bengli	6
Kimbo	22
Babanki	144
Bafut	578
Kaka	194
Babag	19
Banso	179
Bandi	121
Balita	25
Eoow	8
Mandom	70
Balondo	828
Baumbo	3
Bali Kembi	112
Wum	450
Baso	290
Bafo	19
Mukab	31
Carried forward	12,256

Tribe or Locality.	*No. Employed.*
Brought forward	12,256
Bambuan	25
Bamboko	37
Bowan	5
Balum	3
Babaji	136
Ndop	177
Bajum	24
Ngemba	189
Bikom	236
Ngwandi	227
Mbonge	99
Ngolo Batanga	471
Bambui	23
Bawang	173
Bafangi	66
Batanga	81
Boa	29
Balue	275
Inguni	120
Esu	201
Mentah	94
Munguni	19
Mbulang	25
Banjang	25
Banyemi	26
Baba	42
Baruti	4
Banna	14
Buki	124
Bamubu	95
Kurumanta	139
Sonni	14
Bamuko	92
Bako	18
Nsongli	114
Ngali	14
Nkap	2
We	110
Bum	65
Njunikom	38
	15,927
French Cameroons	1,958
Nigerians & others	7,085
TOTAL	24,970

ACREAGE STATISTICS, DECEMBER, 1953—PRINCIPAL CROPS

(All areas are excluded which are not in active cultivation or harvesting)

BANANAS (ACRES)

	Mature	Planted 1953	Total	Preparation for 1954 planting
Tiko Area	7,997	806	8,803	100
Bota/West Coast Area ..	4,620	353	4,973	200
Ekona Area	4,596	1,128	5,724	586
Tombel Area	1,434	552	1,986	250
Meme/Boa Areas	1,542	1,067	2,609	450
Total	20,189	3,906	24,095	1,586

RUBBER (ACRES)

	Mature	Immature	Total	Preparation for 1954 planting
Tiko/Missellele Areas ..	5,611	1,698	7,309	500
Moliwe Area	1,601	—	1,601	—
Ekona Area	1,182	1,404	2,586	250
Mukonje Area	2,837	1,909	4,746	516
Total	11,231	5,011	16,242	1,266

OIL PALMS (ACRES)

	Mature and old Palms	Immature Palms	Total	Preparation for 1954 planting
Bota/West Coast Area ..	10,123	2,050	12,173	1,200
Ekona Area	2,442	—	2,442	—
M'bonge	1,200	—	1,200	—
Ikassa	1,149	—	1,149	—
Total	14,914	2,050	16,964	1,200

CAMEROONS DEVELOP-

(Incorporated under Nigerian

BALANCE SHEET AS

31.12.1952 £	LIABILITIES.	£	£
	RESERVE in accordance with Section 19 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1946:—		
	For Hospitals, Dispensaries, Medical Equipment, Educational Facilities, Port Facilities, Rehousing, Replanting; Hurricane Risks..	510,000	
510,000	*Add :* Transferred from Profit and Loss Account	90,000	600,000
	RESERVE for Retiring Gratuities to Workers not Members of Provident Fund	105,185	
	Less : Payments during year	14,404	
		90,781	
105,185	*Add :* Transferred from Profit and Loss Account ..	9,219	100,000
	DEFERRED MAINTENANCE :—		
	Wharves, Other Constructions, Railways, Plant, Machinery and Equipment	72,762	
72,762	*Less :* Expenditure during year	26,567	46,195
	LOANS (Unsecured, repayable by Instalments) :—		
	Government of Nigeria (final instalment 6th December, 1970)	500,000	
	Government of Nigeria (temporary loan repayable 3rd July, 1954)	200,000	
	Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd. (final instalment 29th May, 1961)	400,000	
850,000			1,100,000
	CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS :—		
	Trade Creditors, Wages and Other Expenses ..	381,210	
	Leave and Passages	50,000	
	Income Tax :—		
	1953/54 Assessment £36,424		
	Provision for 1954/55 Assessment 190,000		
		226,424	
857,527			657,634
	PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT:—		
51,108	Unappropriated Balance		60,285
£2,446,582	*Carried forward*		£2,564,114

MENT CORPORATION.

Ordinance No. 39 of 1946.)

AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

31.12.1952 £	ASSETS.	£	£	£
	IMPROVEMENTS TO LEASEHOLD CONCESSIONS:—	*Cost to 31.12.1952*	*Additions during 1953*	*Cost to 31.12.1953*
	Plantations—			
	New Development	374,699	228,764	603,463
	Buildings and Constructions ..	888,901	636,830	1,525,731
	Roads	8,269	93,183	101,452
	Rail Track	16,876	1,575	18,451
	Furniture and Equipment	94,975	37,283	132,258
		1,383,720	997,635	2,381,355
	EQUIPMENT:—			
	Plant and Machinery	256,501	96,741	353,242
	Railway Rolling Stock	114,377	32,098	146,475
	Marine Craft	143,325	70,111	213,436
		1,897,923	1,196,585	3,094,508
	Less : Written off to 31.12.1952:			
	Improvements to Concessions	1,109,666		
	Equipment	281,278	1,390,944	
	Written off for year 1953:			
	Improvements to Concesssions	710,109		
	Equipment	131,317	841,426	2,232,370
506,979				862,138
	MOTOR VEHICLES:—			
	Cost to 31st December, 1952 ..	152,112		
	Add : Additions during 1953 ..	45,399		
		197,511		
	Less : Cost of Vehicles Retired ..	5,111		
			192,400	
	Less : Written off to 31st December, 1952	110,972		
	Written off for 1953 ..	46,970		
		157,942		
	Less : Depreciation on Retired Vehicles	5,111		
			152,831	
41,140				39,569
	WORK IN PROGRESS (at cost):—			
	Planting		9,416	
	Building and Constructions		299,967	
	Roads and Rail Track		42,978	
	Furniture and Equipment		13,970	
	Maintenance and Repairs		7,255	
	Tiko Wharf		85,036	
	Miscellaneous		1,365	
457,809				459,987
£1,005,928	*Carried forward*			£1,361,694

CAMEROONS DEVELOP-

(Incorporated under Nigerian

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st

31.12.1952		
£		£
2,446,582	*Brought forward* ..	2,564,114

NOTE.—The total estimated amount of Commitments for Capital Expenditure at 31st December, 1953, was £450,000

A. H. YOUNG, *Chairman.*
W. J. C. RICHARDS, E. M. L. ENDELEY } *Members.*
A. M. STUART, *Chief Accountant.*

£2,446,582	£2,564,114

AUDITORS'

In accordance with Section 17 of the Cameroons Development Corporation Ordinance 1946, we report that incorporated Returns from the various areas comprising the Corporation's Concessions.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required, and in our opinion the Balance and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books and records of the Corporation.

LAGOS, NIGERIA,
23*rd April*, 1954.

MENT CORPORATION.

Ordinance No. 39 of 1946.)

DECEMBER, 1953—(*continued*)

31.12.1952			
£		£	£
1,005,928	*Brought forward* ..		1,361,694
	STOCKS (As verified by Officials of the Corporation):—		
	Building Materials, Equipment, Consumable Stores and Stock-in-Trade (At cost or lower valuation)	806,334	
	Produce (At market value)	88,234	
952,397			894,568
289,237	PRODUCE SHIPMENTS 1953, REALISED IN 1954 ..		188,674
134,033	DEBTORS, DEPOSITS AND PREPAYMENTS		63,036
64,987	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		56,142
£2,446,582			£2,564,114

REPORT.

we have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books of the Corporation in the Cameroons, in which are

Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the Corporation's affairs, according to the best of our information

CASSLETON ELLIOTT & CO.,

Auditors.

CAMEROONS DEVELOP-

(Incorporated under Nigerian

Dr. **PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR**

31.12.1952 £		£	£
	To Upkeep of Mature Areas and Production, Ancillary Services, Administration and Maintenance	1,395,692	
	,, Temporary Buildings	9,135	
1,337,549			1,404,827
	,, Medical Services	98,135	
	Less : Contributions by other Plantation Companies ..	15,700	
55,116			82,435
30,326	,, Welfare and Social Services		64,166
743,412	,, Balance carried down		1,235,196
£2,166,403			£2,786,624
	To Expenses of Head Office :—		
	Remuneration of Chairman and Members	3,589	
	Staff, Travelling and General Office Expenses ..	12,521	
13,401			16,110
22,625	,, Agency and Service Fees		19,667
1,335	,, Consultants Fees and Expenses		1,738
	,, Concession Rent :—		
	The Governor of Nigeria	40,697	
	Less : Allocated to Plantations, etc.	34,750	
21,864			5,947
893	,, Audit Fee		900
	,, Depreciation :—		
	Improvements to Leasehold Concessions	710,109	
	Equipment	131,317	
	Motor Vehicles	46,970	
467,629			888,396
35,587	,, Loan Interest		46,864
21,790	,, Loss on Realisation of Investments		—
222,214	,, Balance carried down		345,915
£807,338			£1,325,537
	To Balance Unappropriated 1952 paid to the Governor of		
55,559	Nigeria		51,108
80,000	,, Provision for Income Tax 1954/55 Assessment		190,000
—	,, Transfer to Reserve for Retiring Gratuities		9,219
	,, Transfer to Reserve in accordance with Section 19 of		
100,000	Ordinance No. 39 of 1946		90,000
51,108	,, Balance carried to Balance Sheet		60,285
£286,667			£400,612

MENT CORPORATION.

Ordinance No. 39 of 1946.)

THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953. *Cr.*

31.12.1952 £		£	£
	By Revenue from Plantations:—		
	Bananas	2,171,795	
	Rubber	292,289	
	Palm Products	305,299	
	Cocoa	14,672	
	Pepper	2,569	
2,166,403			2,786,624
£2,166,403			£2,786,624
743,412	By Balance brought down		1,235,196
38,645	,, Agency Earnings and Commissions		58,824
25,281	,, Miscellaneous Receipts and Adjustments		31,517
£807,338			£1,325,537
222,214	By Balance brought down		345,915
55,559	,, Balance per last Account		51,108
8,894	,, Income Tax Excess Provision 1953/54 written back ..		3,589
£286,667			£400,612

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